

RE:

- HB 5926: An Act Concerning Performance Standards for the Operation of the Danbury Rail Line
- HB 6333: An Act Authorizing Special Tax Obligation Bonds of the State to Upgrade the Danbury Branch of Metro-North
- HB 6350: An Act Concerning an Expansion of Commuter Rail Lines to the Town of New Milford

Dear Sirs:

As a commuter on the Danbury line of Metro North to New York Harlem 125th Street, I would respectfully like to add my experience in the hope that it will make some difference in your decisions on the above referenced bills that have been introduced into the current legislative session.

The Danbury line runs with problems on a daily basis that range from aggravating to dangerous. The train is often delayed and even with the "upgrade" of switches, it is unreliable. I receive messages from my ON-Time app all day informing me of the 10-15 minute plus "delays" in service. It is demoralizing and inexcusable in this day and age. When, in the fall, the trains are replaced by buses because the leaves fall on the tracks and the trains can't stop, you have to wonder how it is they haven't figured out what to do to remedy this predictable condition.

When the buses are used to provide service in the place of the trains, the drivers have literally had to be shown the route. The buses were too large for the roads they were driving on and the drivers were not properly trained for the routes. It was at times ridiculous and, at times, downright scary. How could such drivers be put into service, taking people's lives into their care?

On the New Haven line a different set of problems exist. First and foremost, there are not nearly enough cars on the line to seat passengers who purchase tickets. My husband seldom has a seat from Harlem/125th to South or East Norwalk. The train is often crammed to the brim with tired people at the end of the day who have paid FULL FARE to stand. Then there is the condition of the rails and the cars. They are old, tired, and way behind the state of the art rail service that is in place in many other parts of the world.

Beyond the trains themselves lies the bigger picture of our mass transportation issue. Mass transit is in place for many reasons. All of them good. It provides a cleaner, faster, safer, and more energy efficient way to move throughout the corridors of the North East. It protects the environment and provides jobs and services for our workers.

Let's keep people off the roads and on the trains. Bring the service up to grade. Bring respect to the people of Connecticut who want to do the right thing. Pass this legislation and help to make Metro North do the right thing.

Respectfully submitted,

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Wilton, CT